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# Edmonton metro



**INTERVIEW**  
**Yann Martel's**  
**new novel**  
**explores life**  
**after loss**  
**metroLIFE**



Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

**'\$700 million?'**  
**'We'll take it.'**

**As Justin Trudeau rolls through town, he brings a welcome promise**  
**metroNEWS**

## Jobs program awaiting work

**ECONOMY**

**NDP government's \$178-million plan delayed until spring**



**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

The NDP government's much touted job creation program is late for work.

The government announced the new program in the October budget and a plan to have it in place for Jan. 1.

The government gave the program \$178 million, spread over two years. With this it promised to reimburse employers up to 10 per cent of a new hire's salary, to a maximum of \$5,000, and said the program would create up to 27,000 new jobs.

But the program's web page currently indicates details are still being worked out and that it won't be accepting applications until spring 2016.

Marion Nader, press secretary for Deron Bilous, the minister of economic development and trade, said the program benefits would be retroactive to Jan. 1, but that it is still in development.

"Creating jobs and diversifying the economy is job number one for this government. That's why we are currently doing our due diligence on this program to ensure that it is as responsive as possible to the current economic conditions," she said, in an email.

The program was an NDP campaign pledge during last year's election.

Premier Rachel Notley said, at the time, it was an example of her party's priority to create jobs, which she charged the Progressive Conservatives weren't focused on.

"Albertans deserve an NDP government that shares their priorities and works with businesses to create new jobs and invest in Albertans. It's time for a government that has the right priorities," Notley said, in a press release during the campaign.

Amber Ruddy, director of provincial affairs with the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, said her members would like information.

"When you look at what specific policies the Alberta government is focusing on for small business, the job grant is one that they promote a lot," she said. "They point to these great initiatives, but no details have actually come out."

Alberta's unemployment rate was seven per cent as of December.

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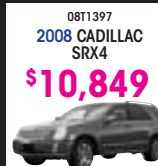
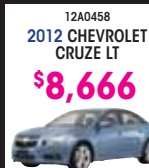
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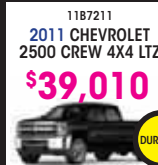
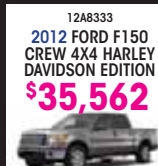
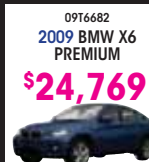
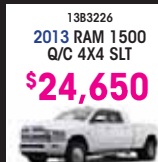
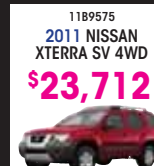
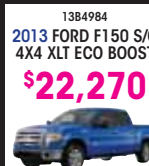
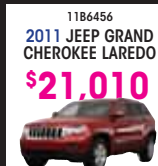


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## Out with the old ...



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



FLICKR/JEFF NELSON



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

1 The former Artery, 9535 Jasper Ave.

2 A crowd at the former Pawn Shop on Whyte Avenue

3 The former Wunderbar Hofbrauhaus, 8120 101 St.

Like a phoenix, Edmonton's live music scene 'rises from the ashes' with new venues



**Alex Boyd**  
Metro | Edmonton

It's been a rough year for Edmonton's live music scene, with the death of much-loved local venues like the Artery, The Pawn Shop and Wunderbar.

"The fewer venues there are, the more frustrating it is for the live music community as a whole," said Steve Derpack, a music promoter and executive director of the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta.

"There's something to be said for having stepping stone places where local artists can develop their craft. No one starts out playing Rexall."

But things are looking up, as a handful of new venues across the city are opening.

"We have seen the phoenix

sort of rise from the ashes," Derpack said.

Recently opened at Whyte Avenue and 103 Street, Almanac is a gastropub where the front is devoted to food but the back can host small shows.

New to downtown, the Chvrch of John was the second tenant to move into the old Grand Hotel at 10260 103 St. Derpack described it as less of a traditional venue and more of a nightlife destination that embraces live music.

The Needle Vinyl Tavern is expected to open in the former CKUA building at 10526 Jasper Ave. in the coming months. It'll

have two rooms, with a total capacity of over 400.

The former owners of the Artery are also back with The Aviary, an all-ages café and venue opening soon at 9314 111 Ave.



**People need to go out and support them with their wallets, at least once in awhile.**

Steve Derpack



### SUPPORT YOUR FAVOURITE VENUES

Derpack is excited for new venues, but warns they won't be immune to the pressures that spelled the end for their predecessors. Those forces: An

abundance of sports and entertainment options — not to mention Netflix — means it's harder than ever to make a music venue in Edmonton last.



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

1 Future site of the Aviary, 9314 111 Ave. NW

2 The upcoming Needle, on Jasper Avenue

3 The Almanac, which recently opened on 10351 82 Ave.

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## SYRIAN FAMILIES

## Lack of childcare new barrier for refugees

Hundreds of Syrian refugees in Edmonton are waiting for childcare before they can begin learning English, a situation that's seeing one organization going to "extraordinary" measures to combat.

"There's an unusually large need, as many of the learners have young families. They can't be in class without a childcare provider," said Erick Ambtman, executive director at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN). The Mennon-

ite Centre offers 45 English as a second language classes to newcomers, 18 of which were added last year to accommodate the expected influx of Syrian families.

Currently, there are about 20 child-care providers at two EMCN locations looking after about 150 children per day.

Ambtman said EMCN has reached its maximum limit on its child-care licence, which means it can't add any more staff or look after more children.

"Because of the volume, we are

looking at alternatives, and doing extraordinary things to meet child-care needs," Ambtman said.

The centre, with the help of various organizations, is coordinating with local daycares to accommodate Syrian children.

One of them is Little Einstein Daycares, which has 17 locations in Edmonton and area.

"We have to welcome them with open arms and help them integrate them into society as quickly as possible," said Gordon Wilkinson, vice-president

of Little Einstein.

Little Einstein could accommodate up to 300 more children, Wilkinson said, and it is currently looking into arranging provincial subsidies to support the new additions.

Ambtman said he expects the wait time for child care will shrink to a few months once daycare collaborations are finalized.

Daycares will likely begin taking in Syrian children currently on the waitlist starting April 1, he said. SANAM ISLAM/METRO

*"I remember visiting Good Earth when it first opened in 1991. It was unique as it served both amazing coffee and healthy food — I'm glad to see that some things don't change!"*

— Elaine Kupser,  
customer since 1991.

In the summer of 1991, Elaine Kupser started her own business (IMPACT Magazine) the same time Good Earth opened its doors. Throughout the years, Good Earth has been part of Elaine's daily routine and community.

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Andrew Pearson was vacationing in Mexico with his daughter when he rescued a local boy and his father from drowning.

SUPPLIED/ANDREW PEARSON

## Firefighter saves family

## MEXICO

### With help, he rescued a drowning father and son



Sanam Islam  
Metro | Edmonton

For firefighter Andrew Pearson, saving lives is part of the job description.

But recently, the St. Albert man — who was vacationing with his family in Mexico — took part in a rescue mission that had nothing to do with work.

Pearson was making sandcastles with family members on the beach while chatting to a mother and son from Saskatchewan, when he noticed something wrong.

"All of a sudden I looked up and there was a young kid — maybe six or eight years old — who was drowning on the other end of the surf. I thought, now's the time to go. I didn't have a

choice. Seconds count in these situations," said Pearson, who has previously received water rescue training.

When he got there, he said he realized there was a man — the boy's father — who was also drowning in the riptide. The man's wife was there, trying to help him.

As he was making his way back with the boy, Liz Armstrong — the woman from Saskatchewan he had met earlier — swam out to help and took the child from him.

Meanwhile, Pearson went back and assisted the boy's father back to shore, while his wife swam back.

“

### Seconds count in these situations.

Andrew Pearson

"By the time I got to the shore I was totally exhausted. I was about to collapse myself, and then Bob from Saskatchewan showed up and helped the father to shore, and by extension me," Pearson said.

"I can't say enough good things about Linda and Bob. They deserve the credit and accolades for this. They didn't have to do this — they didn't have the training or experience like me," Pearson said.

### IN BRIEF

#### Roosh V cancels meetups

A controversial blogger known for his pro-rap views has cancelled several dozen 'Return of Kings' meetups across Canada scheduled for Feb. 6.

"I can no longer guarantee the safety or privacy of men who want to attend on February 6," Daryush

Valizadeh, known online as "Roosh V," posted to his Facebook group Wednesday evening. The blogger had suggested supporters meet in Churchill Square on Saturday.

Mayor Don Iveson told Metro Tuesday said Roosh V and his supporters were not welcome in Edmonton. METRO

# INFO WEEK 2016



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## MONDAY FEBRUARY 8

### BUSINESS

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## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9

### ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

Biomedical Engineering Technology  
Chemical Engineering Technology  
Petroleum Engineering Technology  
and Geological Engineering Technology  
Civil Engineering Technology  
Electrical Engineering Technology  
Electronics Engineering Technology  
Engineering Design and Drafting  
Technology  
Geomatics Engineering Technology  
Instrumentation Engineering  
Technology  
Materials Engineering Technology  
Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Nanotechnology Systems  
**COMPUTERS & IT**  
Computer Engineering Technology  
Computer Network Administrator  
Digital Media and IT  
Network Engineering Technology  
Wireless Systems Technology

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10

### CONSTRUCTION

Architectural Technology  
/Interior Design Technology/  
Landscape Architectural Technology  
Building Environmental Systems  
Technology & HVAC  
Construction Engineering Technology  
**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES**  
Alternative Energy Technology  
Biological Sciences Technology -  
Renewable Resources, Environmental  
Sciences and Laboratory & Research  
Chemical Technology  
Forest Technology  
Geological Technology  
(GeoEnvironmental Specialization)  
Occupational Health & Safety  
Water & Wastewater Technician

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Automotive Service Technician  
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& Automotive Service Technician,  
Pre-Employment  
CNC Machinist Technician  
Communication Technician  
Industrial Heavy Equipment Technology  
Millwork & Carpentry  
Power Engineering 4th Class &  
Power Engineering Technology

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11

### ANIMAL STUDIES

Animal Health Technology  
Veterinary Medical Assistant

### HEALTH

Combined Laboratory & X-Ray Tech  
Cytotechnology  
Dental Assisting  
Dental Technology  
Denturist Technology  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Emergency Medical Technology -  
Paramedic  
Magnetic Resonance  
Medical Laboratory Assisting  
Medical Laboratory Technology  
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Marlin Schmidt is a former soil and groundwater contamination specialist. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Another shuffle, another minister

### UNIVERSITIES

### Marlin Schmidt takes profile for Advanced Education



**Alex  
Boyd**  
Metro | Edmonton

University student groups were watching closely Tuesday as Marlin Schmidt, MLA for Edmonton-Goldbar, was appointed Minister of Advanced Education.

"They say our student association terms are short, but it seems like minister terms are a bit shorter," said Dylan Hanwell, vice-president external for the University of Alberta Student's Union.

Part of Hanwell's role is to handle government relations for the student union. Since starting 10 months ago there have

been three different ministers.

Indeed, in the past five years, there have been seven ministers overseeing Alberta's universities and colleges, making advanced education one of the most frequently shuffled portfolios.

"It is a bit difficult when it comes to consistency," Hanwell said. "We want to make sure we have a consistent minister, so we can have consistent relationships."

Hanwell pointed to last year's discussions of market modifiers — tuition increases for faculties with a higher earning potential approved by then-Innovation and Advanced Education Minister Don Scott — as an example of an issue that has come up more than once in recent years.

"There needs to be some sort of institutional memory... to say this is why it happened in the past, this is why it should happen now," he said. "The burden is placed on us more."

Kristen George, chairwoman

of the Alberta Students Executive Council, said the portfolio is notoriously complex. "We have students, faculties and admin groups that all want a piece of the minister," she said.

There are about 270,000 people enrolled in public post-secondary institutions in Alberta, which executives said makes them stakeholders that need to be listened to.

The heads of student groups typically meet with the minister four times a year, George said, a practice started by Thomas Lukaszuk, when he held the portfolio.

George said she's optimistic as Schmidt, a former soil and groundwater contamination specialist with Alberta Environment, made a point of meeting with students while still an MLA.

"So far he's shown that he's committed to students, and committed to the collaboration."

### HEALTH

### AHS confirms E.coli cases

Alberta Health Services says there have been 14 confirmed cases of E. coli in the Calgary zone, but they have not all been traced to a single source. However, recent testing has linked at least two of the cases to a specific pork sausage sold by a Calgary retailer. The health agency is advising anyone who purchased Hungarian farmer's sausage made by Paolini's Sausage & Meats before Feb. 2 to cook it to an internal temperature of 71 C to destroy any E. coli bacteria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

## Cat hitches ride from Toronto to Calgary



**Helen  
Pike**  
Metro | Calgary

Sure, raccoons take the TTC, but a cat recently found in Calgary high-tailed it out of Toronto aboard a long-haul transport truck.

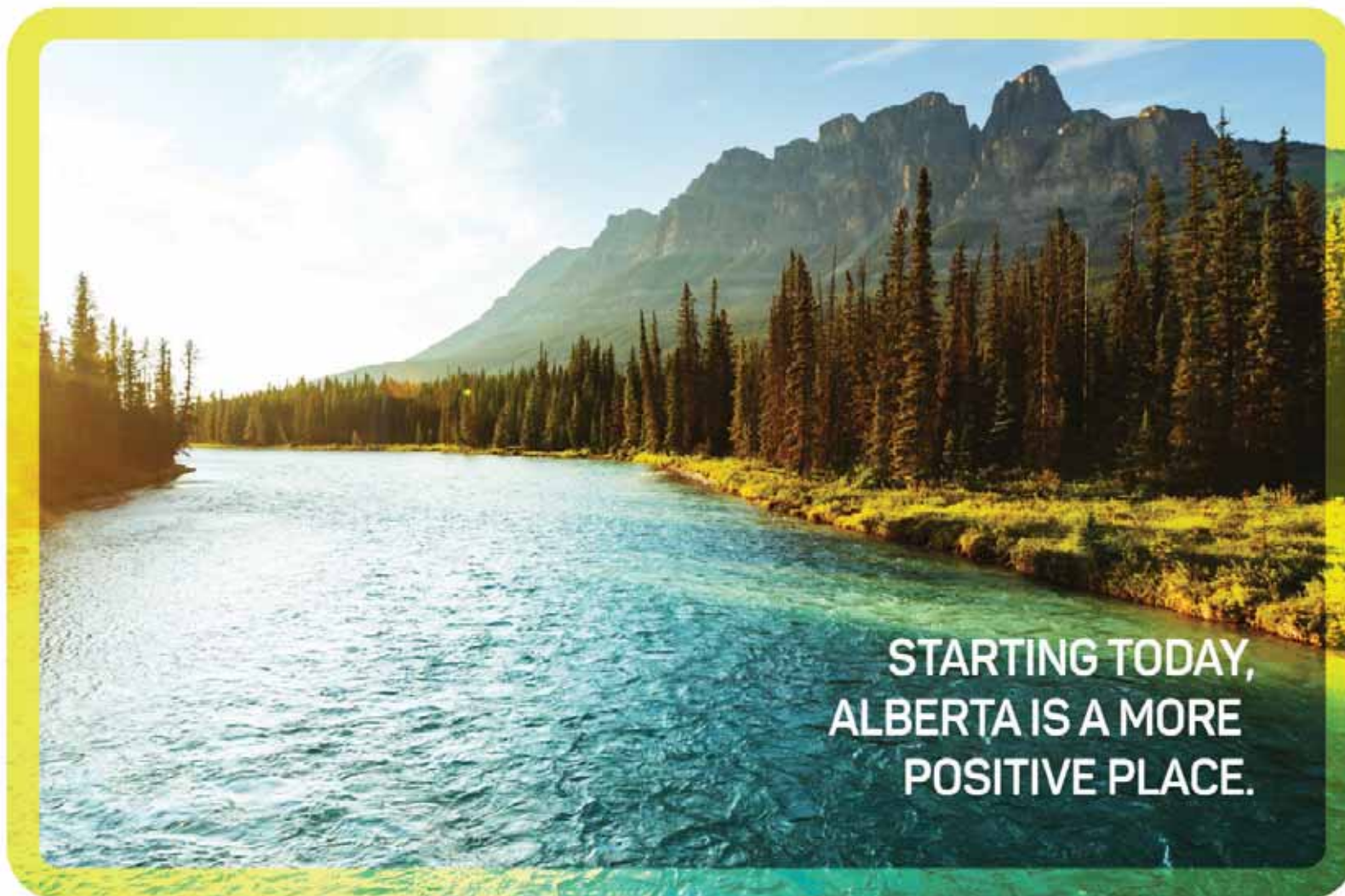
About a month ago, a cat, believed to be from Toronto, apparently hitched a ride on a Bison Transport truck. Three days later, the Russian Blue ended up in Calgary and the company's property services

banded together to care for the stowaway.

Brent Kennedy, officially in charge of litter box cleaning for about a month at the Bison Transport cross dock, said it was a team effort to keep the cat safe and fed while it was getting used to the busy surroundings.

But eventually the temporary kitty kingdom was too dangerous to be a permanent home.

Now, Gulliver, as the cat was named, is in the hands of the MEOW foundation, where he'll be prepped for adoption.



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## NEW VENTURE

# ATCO launches retail energy company



**Sanam Islam**  
Metro|Edmonton

One of Alberta's largest home-grown companies, ATCO, launched a new low-cost electricity and natural gas retail company Wednesday.

"ATCO is showcasing our commitment to this province by investing in a new Alberta company, creating new jobs and lowering electricity and

natural gas costs at a time when Albertans need lower costs," said ATCO CEO Nancy Southern, in a press release.

ATCOenergy, as the new company is called, will offer flexible plans, low prices and the lowest administration fee in the province at \$7, Southern said.

Customers will also receive a \$50 credit every year for the duration of their agreement and will receive \$100 credit to sign up.

Green electricity options and a ban on door-to-door selling are also part of the company's strategy to appeal to customers, she said.

While the company is starting small — with just 35 new employees — Southern said she hopes to grow it into a much larger one.

"We believe this business is scalable ... we believe our success here will allow us to go to other markets in North America and the world. This

will be our springboard for other markets," she said.

ATCO was previously unable to provide retail energy due to a 10-year non-compete agreement with Direct Energy, which provided electricity for the company's customers.

"When deregulation first occurred, we didn't feel like we had the skills to be a quality, top-notch retailer," Southern said.

But now, she said, the "time is right."



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**Education Minister David Eggen** has given public and Catholic schools until March 31 to draft transgender policies. METRO FILE

## Guidelines by deadline

## EDUCATION

### Private schools working on transgender policies



**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro|Edmonton

Alberta's private schools will draft policies to accommodate transgender students by a deadline created by Alberta's education minister, according to an organization that represents them.

John Jagersma, executive director of the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta, said since Education Minister David Eggen requested schools write policies they have been working on it.

"The schools I represent are prepared to submit policies by March 31," he said.

The Alberta Schools Act does not apply all the same rules to private schools in Alberta that it does to public and Catholic

schools.

While Eggen asked private schools to submit policies, his staff told Metro last week those policies might look different.

Jagersma said his organization counts about 90 per cent of private schools as members and tries to represent even the non-members. He said he expects some variation, but all schools want students to have a safe and caring environment. "What the policy will look like will be different in each school context, just like I suspect the public and Catholic school boards will have different looking policies," he said.

Private schools in Alberta include many faith-based institutions. Jagersma said he expects they will approach the issue with their faith in mind, but will ultimately protect students.

"Some of these different faith groups are going to have a different ideological perspective on gender, now that doesn't mean they don't have an obligation to have their transgender students have a safe and caring environment."



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# More than \$700M on way

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Trudeau joins Notley, vowing to create jobs with projects



**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Rachel Notley announced Wednesday that Alberta could soon have more than \$700 million in federal dollars to send people to work building roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The Trudeau government has said recently it wants to expedite \$13.1 billion in existing, national infrastructure cash allocated by the previous Conservative government, but never spent.

Of that money, \$704 million is earmarked for Alberta.

Following a meeting at the legislature Wednesday, Trudeau confirmed the money is coming Alberta's way — shortly.

"The federal government is committed to fast-track infrastructure investments for Alberta and, indeed, all provinces and territories," Trudeau said.

"Obviously, Albertans are facing challenging times right now and this is an excellent opportunity to invest in infrastructure projects that will get people to work."

Notley said the government was reviewing the projects and announcements were imminent.

"There has been a very engaged conversation about what our projects should be and how we can get this money flowing faster," she said. "We really are talking a matter of months,

weeks to months."

But not all of the asks Notley made were addressed during Trudeau's short visit to Edmonton.

Notley said she pushed Trudeau to make changes to Employment Insurance that will broaden access for laid-off energy workers.

But Trudeau didn't make any commitments around EI, noting instead that his party campaigned on easing access to the program in times of need.

Former city councillor Amarjeet Sohi, on hand as federal infrastructure minister, said Ottawa is reviewing projects in Alberta and across the country, and wanted to see the money start moving.

"Our goal will be to get those projects approved as quickly as possible. As the premier mentioned, it will be a matter of

weeks, maybe months depending on the complexity of the project," he said.

Sohi said the city would likely have to provide matching dollars to the federal cash, but the

project will help cushion the effect of a bad economy.

"I absolutely understand the challenges that our families in Alberta are facing and we want to get Albertans to work," he said.

Edmonton has already received \$150 million under the Building Canada program for the Valley Line LRT project, but has outstanding applications for federal money for rail separations at 50th and 75th Street, and upgrades to the Yellowhead.

Mayor Don Iveson, in Ottawa for a meeting of the Big City Mayor's caucus, said he was excited about the announcement and keen for details.

"We have been asking for years for that money to flow quickly and I am glad the government is committed to moving."



In his first visit to Edmonton since his election victory, **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with Premier Rachel Notley to announce funding for infrastructure.** But he dodged timelines for the funding as well as questions on Employment Insurance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## MEDIA

### Student paper to go fully digital

After more than a century on newsprint, the University of Alberta's weekly student newspaper, The Gateway, is halting its weekly print production.

Starting next school year, daily news will be moved online exclusively, with a feature-style magazine printed monthly.

In a story on the Gateway website, Cam Lewis, current editor-in-chief, called the move a triumph in a changing media landscape.

"I don't view this as a failure," Lewis said. "We can, and have the resources, to continue existing and printing the way we are right now. We're not being forced, but we want to steer the path for everybody else."

In the last fall term, The Gateway received an estimated 242,000 page views, up from 122,000 over the same period 2011, according to their website.

Meanwhile newspaper pickup has dropped to a weekly average of 2,500, down from 7,000 in 2012.

Ad revenue has also taken a plunge, dropping 16 per cent in 2015 alone.

Founded in 1910, notable Gateway alumni include Mayor Don Iveson, Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Edmonton novelist Todd Babiak and former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed. METRO



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Cam Lewis,  
editor-in-chief



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# Needs of refugees growing

## SYRIAN CRISIS

### Government-assisted groups will face more issues: Analysis

As the Liberal government's target date to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees inches ever closer, a government analysis of those who've already arrived paints a sobering picture of the resettlement challenge ahead.

Data obtained by The Canadian Press shows that government-assisted refugees have more children, lower language skills and lower education levels compared with those being resettled by private groups.

Here's a look at what it found, and some of the implications for resettlement providers.

#### ■ Bigger families

53 per cent of approved cases listed five to eight people on the application, raising concerns for the current housing crunch. It's harder to find apartments to accommodate that many people within available



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets refugee families who recently arrived in Canada at an open house of the Masjid Al-Salaam Mosque in Peterborough, Ont., Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

budgets.

#### ■ They're younger

55 per cent of approved applicants were 14 years of age or younger, compared with 27 per cent of privately sponsored ones. Services directly targeted at children will need to be stepped up.

#### ■ Language barriers

67 per cent of approved applicants reported speaking neither English or French. In some cities, wait lists for language training are over a year long.

#### ■ Lower education levels

Anecdotal reports suggest the average level of schooling for adult Syrian government-assisted refugees is six to nine

years. Of cases coming from Jordan, 90 to 95 per cent have not finished high school. The report notes that many kids are also a year or two behind their peers, putting new demands on the school system.

#### ■ They're generally healthy

The brief says the health of refugees runs from entirely

## SECURITY

### U.S. senators probing Canada's refugee plan

The U.S. Senate committee for homeland security is studying the implications for U.S. security from Canada's refugee program. The committee is hearing from two Canadians who have criticized the Trudeau government's refugee plan, including a representative of U.S. border guards who says the border is porous and needs more guards and a trade expert.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

healthy to those with severe diseases such as cancer. But only 12 per cent of the medical assessments had at least one condition listed. The most common were hypertension, diabetes and vision or hearing impairment. Mental health issues have also been known to arise soon or several months after arrival in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## INFORMATION LAWS

### Reform requires 'culture change'

The Liberals' promise to pry open government requires nothing less than "cultural change" within the public service, warn documents obtained by Torstar News Service.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison was told in November there are significant hurdles to the Liberals' campaign pledge to reform access-to-information laws, make government information open by default and more effectively communicate with the public.

Documents prepared for Brison describe a federal culture of "limited disclosure, insular policy making," which takes into account the "federal view only."

To implement the Liberals' ambitious democratic reform agenda, that culture will need to shift to one of "proactive release, engagement and connectivity (and) broad leadership on open government."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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## OTTAWA

### Man accused of sex crimes



**Joe Lofaro**  
Metro | Ottawa

An Elvis impersonator from Ottawa is accused of multiple sex crimes — including sexually assaulting young boys and girls over a period of several years beginning in the early 1990s.

Dan Burgess — who has performed as Elvis Presley for more than 25 years — also faces child-pornography charges.

Ottawa police say they obtained a warrant and searched the 54-year-old's home in the city's east end, where they seized several computer hard drives.

Burgess' family say they are

shocked by the charges.

"I'm going through hell and I do not want to talk to anybody," said Burgess' wife, Suzanne.

Ottawa police say the RCMP's National Child Exploitation Co-ordination Centre tipped them off last January about a child pornography video uploaded to an online video chat service.

Last September, Ottawa police began an investigation into historical sexual assaults on a boy under the age of 10 that allegedly first took place in the early 1990s and continued for several years.

Police say more victims came forward after they charged Burgess on Tuesday. They subsequently laid additional charges.

## OTHER CHARGE

He also faces several child pornography charges.

Burgess now also faces one count each of sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching. Police say the charges stem from a 2003 investigation involving a boy under the age of 10.

Further charges were laid following a 1999 investigation involving three girls, all of them younger than 10 years old. Police have charged Burgess with three counts each of sexual assault and sexual interference.

## CRIME

### Members of Canadian navy charged with drug offences

The Canadian navy says two members of a warship have been charged with drug offences by Japanese police.

The charges follow a port visit to Tokyo by HMCS Winnipeg, a Halifax-class frigate with a crew of about 250 personnel.

The navy says in a news re-

lease that police detained two military members and a civilian employee on Monday for the alleged use of a controlled substance.

It says police released one of the military members but have charged the other two with use of a controlled substance.

The navy says it will work

with Canadian consular officials and Japanese authorities and will support the individuals who are being held in custody and their families at home.

The Canadian Armed Forces has a zero-tolerance policy for the possession and use of illicit drugs. THE CANADIAN PRESS



## HEALTH

## Heat helps spread of Zika virus

In its brief lifespan, the mosquito that carries the Zika virus is caught in a race: Will it pass the disease to humans before it dies?

Weather might make the difference. Scientists say the hotter it gets, the more likely the insect can spread disease.

"With higher temperatures you have more mosquitoes feeding more frequently and having a greater chance of acquiring infection. And then the virus replicates faster because it's hotter, therefore the mosquitoes can transmit earlier in their life," said entomologist Bill Reisen of the University of California Davis.

In general, mosquitoes don't live long, maybe 10 to 12 days on average, said Tom Scott, a University of California Davis professor of both entomology and epidemiology.

Warmer air incubates the virus faster in the cold-blooded mosquito. So the insect has more time to be infectious and alive to spread the disease, Scott said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## + BLOOD DONORS

The agency responsible for most of Canada's blood supply says people who have travelled outside of Canada, the continental United States and Europe will be ineligible to give blood for 21 days after their return.

Canadian Blood Services says it is implementing the waiting period to mitigate the risk of the Zika virus entering the Canadian blood supply. CBS says the new waiting period is being implemented across the country and will take full effect in all of its clinics starting on Feb. 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## MIGRANTS 'THIS, ABOVE ALL, TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE'

The words from Shakespeare's Hamlet rang out on the most unlikely stage on Wednesday — a squalid migrant camp in the northern French port of Calais, known locally as the "jungle." The audience of migrants from the Middle East to Africa would almost certainly have preferred to see London's renowned Globe theatre company perform the Bard's famous play in his native country on the other side of the English Channel. Yet, up to 300 people bundled against the cold wind to watch the outdoor show on a wooden stage beside the small Good Chance theatre, set up last fall to help fill the void for the displaced camp residents of the sprawling camp. THIBAUT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Afghan insurgents kill 10-year-old child soldier

## MIDDLE EAST

## Boy had fought against the Taliban with militia

A 10-year-old Afghan boy who was declared a hero after fighting the Taliban has been shot dead by insurgents while on his way to school, officials said Wednesday.

Wasil Ahmad, who had fought the Taliban alongside his uncle on many occasions, was killed Monday near his home in Tirin Kot, the capital of the southern

Uruzgan province, said deputy police chief Rahimullah Khan.

The 10-year-old boy had been a local celebrity of sorts, with widely circulated photographs on social media showing him holding an automatic weapon and wearing a uniform and helmet.

Ahmad's uncle was a former Taliban commander who changed allegiance to the government and was appointed local police commander in Khas Uruzgan district, Khan said.

The use of child soldiers is illegal in Afghanistan, but the charity Child Soldiers International said both government forces and insurgents have been



Wasil Ahmad TWITTER.COM

recruiting minors for years.

The organization's policy and advocacy director Charu Lata Hogg told The Associated Press that the Afghan government, despite pledging to stop the recruitment and use of children

by the Afghan security forces, was making "slow and tardy progress."

"There is a lack of political will to address this issue, and while it's within the framework of overall human rights violations, there is a specific commitment by the government to clean it up but sufficient measures are not being taken," she said.

In a June 2015 report presented to the UN Security Council's working group on children and armed conflict, the London-based charity said children were recruited by the Afghan National Police and the Afghan Local Police. It said the recruitment was

mainly driven by poverty, but also filial duty, patriotism and honour.

Rafullah Baidar, spokesman for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, said local police had hailed the boy as a hero after he battled a Taliban siege following the death of his father.

"One side made him famous and the other side killed him — both sides ignored the law and acted illegally," Baidar said.

Afghanistan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, committing the country to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

## Judge rejects bid to throw out Cosby case

A judge has decided not to throw out the sexual assault case against Bill Cosby on Wednesday, sweeping aside claims that a previous district attorney had granted the comedian immunity from prosecution a decade ago.

Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill issued the ruling after a hard-fought two-day hearing.

The case now moves to a preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to try the 78-year-old Cosby on charges he drugged and violated former Temple University

athletic department employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The TV star could get up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

In 2005, then-District Attorney Bruce Castor decided the case was too flawed to prosecute. But Castor's successors reopened the investigation last year after Cosby's lurid, decade-old testimony from Constand's civil suit was unsealed after dozens of other women came forward with similar accusations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Russian cosmonauts install new experiments on the International Space Station. NASA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SPACE

## Cosmonauts collect experiments, toss USB

Spacewalking Russians gathered seeds and spores that have been stuck outside the International Space Station for months, if not years, and gave a ceremonial send-off Wednesday to a flash drive containing special messages for their motherland.

Cosmonaut Sergey Volkov waited for good camera views before tossing the flash drive overboard toward Earth as the space station sailed 402 kilometres above the Pacific.

The flash drive includes vid-

eos and messages pertaining to the 70th anniversary of Russia's Victory Day last year. It was attached to a small bundle stuffed with towels to provide some bulk.

With that accomplished, the spacewalkers set off to retrieve research equipment that has been outdoors since 2009. The trays include plant seeds as well as spores from fungi and bacteria; the specimens typically were replenished every year or two and returned to Earth for analysis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Rona Inc. will keep its retail store banners as part of the agreement with Lowe's which has also agreed to headquarter the Canadian businesses in Quebec. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Lowe's bids \$3.2B for Rona

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

### Acquisition gives U.S. giant a strong base in Quebec

Following a long and sometimes stormy courtship, Lowe's Companies Inc. announced Wednesday that it has a deal to buy Quebec-based Rona Inc. for \$3.2 billion, creating the largest home improvement retailer in Canada.

The agreement provides for

an all-cash purchase price of \$24 per common share and \$20 per preferred share (all figures in Canadian dollars).

The offer represents a premium of 104 per cent to Rona's closing share price Tuesday.

As part of the agreement, Lowe's agreed to headquarter the Canadian businesses in Boucherville, Que., maintain Rona's many retail store banners, and enhance distribution services to independent dealers. It also agreed to allow Rona to continue to employ the vast majority of its current employees and maintain key execu-

tives from Rona's leadership team and to continue Rona's local and ethical procurement strategy and potentially expand relationships that both Lowe's and Rona have developed with Canadian manufacturers and

suppliers.

The value of Rona shares shot up more than \$11 on the news, to \$23.41, an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

And while Parti Québécois party leader Pierre Karl Péladeau immediately took to Twitter calling on the province to save Rona from foreign ownership, it seems unlikely that political interference will scuttle the deal, as it did in 2012.

The acquisition accelerates Lowe's growth strategy in Canada, giving it a strong base in Quebec under a recognized brand. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# 100%

The percentage by which the value of Rona shares shot up on news of the takeover, rising more than \$11 to \$23.41.

## SHOPPING

### Canadians using less cash: Study

Canadian consumers are more inclined to reach for their smartphones and credit cards over bills and coins to make purchases, according to a new study.

Market and consumer information firm GfK conducted an online survey of 1,000 Canadians as part of a larger study on shopping behaviours.

In 2015, only 25 per cent of Canadian transactions were in cash, a decline of two percentage points from 2014. Meanwhile, credit cards accounted for the majority of transactions at 42 per cent, unchanged from the previous year.

"We also saw a number of years ago in this country a very concerted effort by the card companies to get people to start using their cards for smaller payments. That clearly has worked," said Stephen Popeil, vice-president of GfK Canada.

"We're clearly seeing that the use of cash is getting less and less in this country. Is it ever going to disappear? I don't

think so, because of the nature of certain economies that are out there."

Debit cards were at 28 per cent, followed by mobile device payments at three per cent. Each category saw marginal growth of a percentage point each compared to 2014.

In the case of mobile payments, GfK found that they tend to skew to younger and



**Older retired Canadians ... are now acknowledging that mobile payment systems are easier.**

Stephen Popeil

higher-income Canadians, as well as among urban dwellers and those with a higher education. But the high-tech payment method is also catching on with boomers and those of the silent generation born between 1925 and

1945. "What we saw this year versus last year is a nice little increase in ... perception of these benefits," said Popeil. "More boomers and more older retired Canadians from the silent generation are now acknowledging that mobile payment systems are easier and faster and more efficient."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## AUTOMOTIVE

### Toyota gives up on Scion

Toyota is killing its Scion brand after years of slumping sales.

Beginning in August, 2017 model-year Scion vehicles will be rebadged as Toyotas. The FR-S sports car, iA sedan and iM five-door hatchback, as well as the C-HR, which recently debuted at the L.A. Auto Show, will be a part of the Toyota line-up. The tC will have a final release series edition and end production in August, according to Toyota Motor Corp.

Scion was formed in 2003 to attract younger buyers. It was known for its funky designs, like the boxy xB, and was the brand Toyota used when it wanted to experiment with new kinds of marketing or no-haggle pricing.

But there were multiple problems. The millennials that the Scion was aiming for held back on big acquisitions during the recession, and when they did buy, they were just as happy to buy Toyotas. Scion's small, oddball lineup never connected with buyers and they were a bit more expensive.

At the brand's height, in 2006, sales of all Scion models combined reached just over 173,000. Sales stood at 56,167 in 2015.

Toyota says it achieved what it had hoped with the Scion, including attracting younger buyers. Half of the one million Scions sold were bought by people under 35.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Scion brand was formed in 2003 to attract younger buyers.** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## market minute

**DOLLAR**  
72.61¢ (+1.32¢)

**TSX**  
12,593.02 (+150.76)

**OIL**  
\$32.28 US (+\$2.40)

**GOLD**  
\$1,141.30 US (+\$14.10)

**NATURAL GAS:** \$2.038 US (+1.3¢)  
**DOW JONES:** 16,336.66 (+183.12)

## ENERGY EAST PIPELINE

### TransCanada tries to win over Quebec

The company behind the proposed Energy East Pipeline ramped up its Quebec charm offensive on Wednesday, announcing a deal to create more than 120 jobs if the project proceeds.

TransCanada is hoping it can woo Quebecers to get on side with the multibillion-dollar pipeline after it signed an agreement with power equipment manufacturer ABB Can-

ada to build 22 electrical houses in the Montreal region.

But Energy East will be a tough sell in Quebec. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre along with more than 80 other municipal leaders recently rejected the pipeline over environmental concerns, accusing TransCanada of arrogance.

John Soini, the new president of Energy East, made sure to deliver the majority of

his announcement in French, despite difficulty speaking the language.

His presence Wednesday was part of what the company calls its "new approach" toward convincing Quebecers that the \$15.7-billion pipeline project is in the province's best economic interests and that TransCanada cares about citizens' concerns.

"For me, it's all about listening," Soini said.

TransCanada plans to build a pipeline from Alberta's oil sands that would wind its way through Montreal and ending in Saint John, N.B.

The project would ship 1.1 million barrels of oil a day and allow Alberta's crude — which is currently landlocked — to be exported to international markets other than the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



# 66% Spike In Recent Foreclosures Plus Aging Baby Boomers Downsizing Creating Discounted Property Frenzy In U.S.

## New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping \$5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

## Foreclosures, Flips & Flowing Money

Foreclosures clogged in the U.S. courts are now surging. Those that know how are gaining windfalls of opportunity for flips or portfolio growth.

Yet investors are asking, "Can I still find good deals in U.S. property?" The answer is an emphatic YES.



**Warren Buffet told CNBC he would buy a couple hundred thousand single family homes if he could.**

Real estate investors on the U.S. Property Success team know the right way to buy property. No matter what the economy is doing. Using their proprietary techniques, you too can find screaming bargains in the U.S.

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The Vancouver couple pictured here, were able to buy an entire trailer park in Florida for half off. Their investment brings them a 23% net annual return on their money. Would you like these types of returns?

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## CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE POLITICS OF OILSANDS



**If Trudeau cannot get along with Rachel Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. But ... the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file.**

Kudos to Justin Trudeau and Premier Rachel Notley for taking the time to talk face-to-face about the province's economic challenges on Wednesday. The Liberal prime minister has a compelling interest in keeping the channels open with the NDP premier.

If Trudeau can't get along with Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. Her two top advisers — Richard Dicerri on the public-service side and Brian Topp in the more political role of chief-of-staff — know the federal capital inside out and have worked with the federal Liberals in the past.

Dicerri served in a senior role in the unity backrooms of Pierre Trudeau's government at the time of the 1980 Quebec referendum. Topp was Jack Layton's lead negotiator in the talks that led to the 2008 Liberal-NDP coalition accord.

But while the prime minister can offer Notley some financial relief in the upcoming federal budget, the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file and the fate of Alberta's efforts to connect the oilsands to tidewater.

It is by far the most contentious issue on the federal-provincial radar. Yet, this is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved between first ministers. To date, the lead players in the debate have mostly been municipal

politicians.

Here are a few of them: Joanne Monaghan was the mayor of Kitimat, B.C., on whose watch a plebiscite was held on the Northern Gateway pipeline in 2014. As the end point for the pipeline bringing oil from Alberta, Kitimat would be home to a marine terminal where tankers would load up. Almost 60 per cent of her constituents voted no, driving another nail in the coffin of the moribund \$6.5-billion Enbridge project.

Derek Corrigan is the mayor of Burnaby, B.C. The Trans Mountain pipeline runs through the city, and its corporate owner, Kinder Morgan, wants to triple its capacity. Corrigan is hardly the only Vancouver-area mayor to oppose the pipeline but he is one of the most vocal. Last May, he told a community meeting he

was prepared to be arrested and see his political career come to an end to stop the project. He called last week's federal announcement of an expanded consultation process and an extended approval timeline a disappointment.

Marc Demers is the mayor of Laval, Quebec's third-largest city, and one of 82 Montreal-area municipal leaders who came out against the Energy East pipeline. While most Canadians see Denis Coderre as the face of the region's opposition to TransCanada's current plans, Demers has been campaigning hard against the pipeline since early last fall.

Gilles Lehouillier is the mayor of Lévis, across from Quebec City. He turned down TransCanada's plan to locate a terminal for the Energy East pipeline in his city and remains ambivalent about the

project as whole.

There are mayors in the pro-pipeline camp who are not from Saskatchewan and Alberta — the two provinces whose oil industry needs access to a coast — but their support tends to be more tentative than the opposition of some of their mayoral colleagues.

Quebec City's Régis Labeaume gave his support in principle to the Energy East pipeline last week. In the same breath, though, he said TransCanada had proven inept at addressing the environmental concerns arising from the project.

Mel Norton, the mayor of Saint John, N.B., where some of the oil delivered by the pipeline would be refined, also supports Energy East, but his municipal council wants more definitive answers from TransCanada as to its benefits for the region.

Canada has hit upon defining issues that have pitted region against region in the past. Think of the National Energy Program in the early '80s, the 1988 free-trade agreement with the United States — opposed by Ontario but supported by Quebec and Alberta — and three divisive constitutional rounds. But none of those discussions engaged Canada's municipal politicians in the way that this one does.

No mayor holds a veto over a pipeline, but it will be hard to secure a social licence for any project absent more support from the political leaders who are closest to the day-to-day life of so many voters.

**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

### The media is two-faced when it comes to sexual assault

If you are sexually assaulted, you can have your day in the media, and then have your day in court.

But if you want a conviction, your first call should probably be to a lawyer.

Watching the first two days of Jian Ghomeshi's trial, which resumes today, it seems the press will work against you in the court.

Marie Henein, Ghomeshi's lawyer, made hay from every detail in every statement the first witness made — in four media interviews and to police — that did not line up, just so, with her chief testimony in court on Monday.

It's not clear what the inscrutable Justice William Horvath thought, but to the gallery it appeared as if Henein, while never explicitly challenging that Ghomeshi punched the woman in the head three times, systematically shredded her credibility.

At this point, avoiding the courts, as many of Ghomeshi's accusers have, seems the more judicious move.

Not only have they had their stories heard by the country, they got results. Ghomeshi lost his job. The CBC endured a scathing inquiry into management's culpability in a caustic work environment at Q, Ghomeshi's show. Ontario launched a high-profile, \$41-million anti-sexual-assault campaign.

It's a rare reckoning that

only happens if you have a Ghomeshi-calibre celebrity as your alleged abuser. And even then — people who sexually assault people should be convicted. Ironically, media interviews can undermine that.

"It's not that you're set up to fail," Jacob Jesin, the witness's lawyer, told me yesterday.

"It's that every statement you make, outside of being in your lawyer's offices, is fodder for cross-examinations."

It seems highly likely that anyone telling a story would alter some aspects along the way, but in court, there is little room for memory's foibles or the slow recollection of details, like whether the witness was wearing hair extensions. Pile up enough seemingly small deviations, and the story begins to take on water. In fact, the best way to seem reliable on the witness stand seems to be to actually have a script and, to use Jesin's words, "Stick to it."

Not only have the witness's comments to the media given the defence ample ammunition, but the press — a sympathetic listener when the witness first came forward — will tell your difficult story and also print your bikini shot.

Today is expected to start with a request from members of the media to publish the bikini photo the witness sent Ghomeshi in 2004. Their "public interest" cuts both ways.

#### THE MICROTREND: A whiter shade of male



The artist Andy Warhol once wrote, "When you've got grey hair, every move you make seems 'young' and 'spry.'" Perhaps, then, the pressures of modern life have millennial men feeling their age already, because stars such as former One Direction member Zayn Malik, 23, and vlogger Tyler Oakley, 26, are leading the trend toward pastel-grey locks for younger guys. It's a toned-down version of the frosted-metallic look for women, and a black-and-white reversal of the fad from just a few years ago. Back then, middle-aged men flocked to salons in droves to "reshade" (never "colour," that's for women) their greying tresses in hopes of competing with the young and energetic talent hitting an atrophied job market. SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

**This is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved by first ministers.**

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While almost 80 per cent of Canadians drink, many are unaware of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption, says country's chief public health officer Dr. Gregory Taylor.

# Martel on faith, love and iPhones

## BOOKS

## Living with loss in The High Mountains of Portugal

**Melita Kuburas**  
Metro | Canada



When bad things happen in life, how do we react? To whom do we turn for help?

In his new book *The High Mountains of Portugal*, Yann Martel dissects moments of human suffering post-tragedy — not to explore how his characters overcome, or succumb to, their loss, but to find out how they live with it?

"I wanted to start with people who have lost something very, very precious, and where they go from there," Martel says. "When it gets bad — what do you do, what do you reach for?"

First we meet Tomás who, one by one, within the span of a week, loses his son, his lover, his father. His heart unravels. He tries to protect himself from further assault by walking in reverse; facing the elements with the toughness of his back. He then sets off in search of a treasure hidden in a village church, located in Portugal's mountain range, not on foot but driving his rich uncle's car — a new technology in the early 1900s, one that he hates and doesn't really know how to use.

In the book's Part 2, we meet Euse-

bio Lozora, a pathologist who gets a strange visit from a widow on New Year's 1939. She wants an autopsy, but not to find out how her husband died. "I want to know how he lived," she insists.

More than 40 years later, in the book's Part 3, Canadian senator Peter Tovy is frustrated with his broken family and becomes enamoured with an ape at a chimpanzee sanctuary in Oklahoma. He buys Odo and goes with his new gargantuan pet (nay, friend) to live in the same village in Portugal, Tuizelo, which connects all three stories.

Much like the plucky teenage protagonist in *Life of Pi*, Martel's Booker Prize-winning bestseller, the grieving characters in *High Mountains* find solace in what the author describes as a "curious phenomenon called faith."

It's a subject Martel is intrigued by, even though it's become unusual in many social circles to talk about God and religion in any way that's not underlined with cynicism.

## BIBLIOTHERAPY

**In 2007, Yann Martel began sending Stephen Harper books he thought the then-prime minister should read. What would he send to Justin Trudeau?**

"I did that to Harper because I thought he needed betterment. I saw a man who had a dried up narrow vision — profoundly divisive, profoundly destructive. I don't see that in Trudeau."

"We live in a time that's very inhospitable to other-dimensional talk," he says. "It's against the ethos of our times to believe in airy-fairy things called gods."

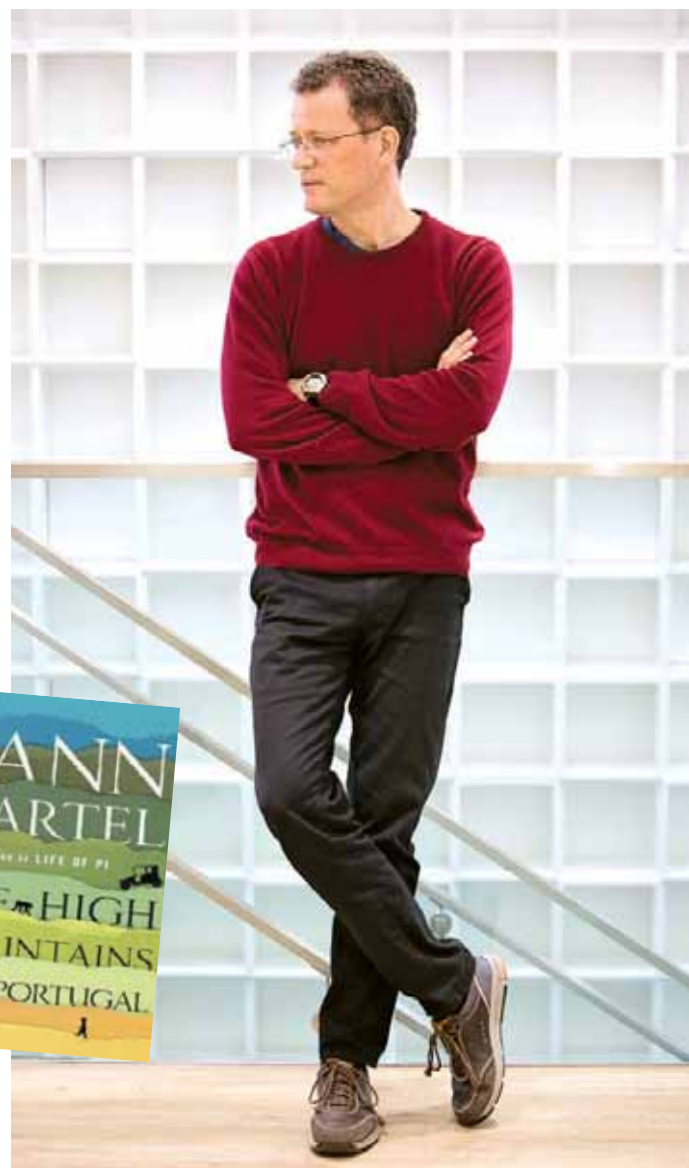
It's easier to talk about things that are tangible, that can be explained. Technology, for instance, which the author speaks about favourably though he has his misgivings, perhaps in the same way the villagers in *High Mountains* are suspicious of Tomás's automobile.

His iPhone, Martel says, allows him to Facetime with his wife and children currently away in England, communicating across the Atlantic, for free. But the device is only useful if you have someone to talk to. In the end, technology is not going to save anyone from the inevitable.

"The person who believes in nothing but a chemical, material reality, confronted with suffering, has very few tools to deal with that," he says.

"A lot of stuff we derive through our senses. Faith goes beyond that, you know — why you fall in love with one person or one hockey team... there's no real sense to it. Why I love India and am indifferent to another country; why I like Italian food and less so Chinese food — there's no logic to that. But that's who I am."

In other words, when we let go of our rationality, we open the door for magic.



Just this week, Yann Martel released his new book, *The High Mountains of Portugal*. He will tour across Canada in March. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO CANADA

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# Love, murder, intrigue make good television



Ben Whishaw plays a young Londoner trying to solve the mystery of his lover's murder. HANDOUT

## INTERVIEW

### British writer uses plot twists and slow reveals in London Spy

**Ned Ehrbar**  
Metro | Hollywood



British writer Tom Rob Smith makes his first foray into writing for television with the twisting, mysterious London Spy, about a young Londoner named Danny (Ben Whishaw), who meets Alex, a reserved math genius.

The two become lovers, then Alex disappears and Danny discovers he was a spy — and Danny is being framed for his murder. Danny's ensuing hunt for the truth leads to British intelligence giant MI6.

**Your first work, Child 44, was a novel adapted into a movie. How did making a TV series change your approach?**

With the novel it was just a case of you believe in it, you go away and you write it and then you find a world for it. And this was kind of similar. I didn't have any TV experience, I hadn't written an original drama before, but I knew that

I wanted to tell the story and I knew it was TV. I knew it wasn't film, and I also knew it wasn't a book.

It's like first-person narrative through the eyes of the main character, played by Ben Whishaw.

**What were your ways into tackling the process of writing for TV?**

With the first episode, there was a lot of debate about pace. One of the things I love about TV is you have more time. The conventional story — your partner is murdered and you take on the question of who murdered them — has been

told countless times. With this, we have enough time to work out what their love story is as a particular love story without it being a shorthand. Let's spend a bit of time with these two people. Love stories aren't all the same — we fall in love for completely different reasons. I wanted to understand that these two people were both lost for very different reasons.

You have someone who's very hedonistic and then you have someone who's deeply closeted, locked into a world of people who are dark and dangerous. In London, those two worlds stare at each other.

## JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING



The American Idol judges have found an engaging banter in their final season of the show. CONTRIBUTED

### American Idol's final act is full of beauty

**THE SHOW:** American Idol, Season 15  
**THE MOMENT:** The Final Auditions

Crackling with craziness, a young woman bounds into the audition room and announces to judges Jennifer Lopez, Harry Connick, Jr. and Keith Urban, "I'm 23 years old and I'm a singing nomad."

Lopez, who moves through life looking permanently airbrushed, says, "I could never do that."

"You couldn't sleep outside?" Connick asks her. "You could build a shelter out of your assistants."

"That would work," Lopez replies (she knows who she is).

The crackling girl, who can't sing, looks bewildered. The judges dismiss her. But nicely. The awareness that this is American Idol's final season has reinvigorated everyone.

The contestants are fresher. The panellists, nestled in their niches — Urban feels the music, Lopez is the mama (sweet and stern), and Connick is both cut-up and musical sophisticate — have found an engaging banter.

AI has always been about hope, kids from nowhere dreaming of stepping through a magic door into a bigger, better life. In the Simon Cowell years, there were two ways that hope could go: terrible singers were mocked for their delusion while credible candidates were moved along in a hard-nosed manner until their story had been exploited fully. Thankfully, the show has melowered as it's matured.

The current judges are as much about making music as they are about selling it. They're attuned to the place songs hold in people's lives.

When they talk about connecting to a song, and connecting through a song, they mean it. They're looking for that lump in the throat. And that makes great TV. American Idol airs Wednesdays 8 p.m. on Yes TV and Fox.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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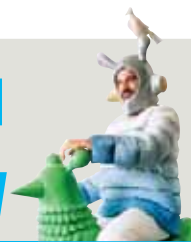
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## BENTLEY CONDOMINIUMS

MEET THE CONDO

# Windsor Park palace



CONTRIBUTED

## Project overview

The Windsor Park/university district is known for character homes and mature trees, but it'll soon also offer luxury condominiums to those who want to be in the heart of Edmonton. With 70 per cent of units sold, buyers are keyed into the combination of luxury and affordability.

## Housing Amenities

Standard features in the Bentley's two and three-bedroom suites include double master ensuites, steam showers, quartz and hardwood throughout, LED backlit mirrors, heated underground parking, floor-to-ceiling triple-glazed windows, and nine- and 10-foot ceilings.

## Location and transit

Sitting at 11710-87 Ave. and adjacent to U of A campus, Bentley is walking distance to Hawrelak Park, Edmonton's river valley, all the facilities at the university and Jubilee Auditorium, and the cafes and shopping on 109 Street and Whyte Avenue. The transit hub at U of A connects bus and LRT to downtown and all neighbourhoods.

## In the neighbourhood

Windsor Park is a much desired area in the city core, with single-family homes, tree-lined streets and parks, and all levels of schooling. The U of A, university hospital and independent shops and boutiques are a short walk away, as are the trendy cafes, theatre and night life of Whyte Avenue.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

## + NEED TO KNOW

**What:** Bentley Condominiums  
**Builder:** Yorkton Group/Implicit Engineering  
**Architect:** Brinsmead Kennedy Architecture  
**Location:** 11710-87 Ave.  
**Building:** Four-floor, apartment-style condominium  
**Sizes:** 1,100 to 1,600 square feet

**Pricing:** \$600,000s/\$1,500 per month  
**Suites:** Two and three bedroom/double ensuite units  
**Status:** Near completion  
**Occupancy:** Spring 2016  
**Sales centre:** Off-site at 6930 109 St.  
**Phone:** (780) 710-9556  
**Website:** bentleyluxurycondos.ca

## + CORRECTION

Incorrect information appeared in last month's (Thursday, Jan. 21) profile on Starling at Big Lake. The development is being created by Rohit Land Development. Duplexes, townhomes and single family homes are being constructed by Custom Homes, Averton, Blackstone Homes, C2 Homes, Gill Built Homes, Rohit Communities and San Rufo Homes. Duplexes and townhomes start in the \$300,000s, with single-family homes starting in the \$400,000s. Their phone number is 780-395-6496.

METRO

## INTERIORS

# Missoni Home presents florals at Paris Déco Off

High-end Italian fashion house Missoni presented its new collection of fabrics this week at Paris Déco Off, a design showcase that takes visitors around brand showrooms in the French capital.

With Rosita Missoni at the helm of Missoni Home, it's no surprise to see her love of colour channeled in these vibrant new fabrics.

One of six fabric collections presented, Oriental Garden is based on a pattern from a silk cape, known as Saturno, designed by Missoni in 1971.

Missoni Home reclaimed the pattern for its 2016 textile collection, with bold flowering branches blooming in differ-

ent designs, including a macro print on cotton with a checkerboard of matte and shiny finishes, and micro embroidery on satin fabric. Two sets are available, with turquoise, amethyst, slate and onyx on a sandy coloured background, or coral, rosewood and shades of amethyst and sage on a turquoise background.

Anemone is a flagship line this season for Missoni.

Inspired by the flower of the same name, it juxtaposes large and small flowers in shades of blue and green against black and white blooms.

Black and white appear again in the Anemones Dream fabric, alongside touches of

pink, yellow and purple.

Fireworks uses a rainbow design, which along with chevrons is a hallmark of the Missoni brand. The bright colours are set against a black and white background.

The Tropical Fish line of outdoor fabrics puts colourful fish in a lively print, while Floral Galaxy captures a flower-filled English garden. (Prices on request)

Rosita Missoni founded Missoni 60 years ago with her husband, Ottavio.

She left the fashion side of things to her children in 1997 and turned her attention to Missoni Home.

AFP



Anemones Dream is one of six new fabric collections from Missoni Home. MISSIONI HOME/HANDOUT



# Eskimos QB high on Cup repeat with new coaches

CFL

## Reilly feels Jason Maas-led crew can do job effectively

After Edmonton defeated Ottawa 26-20 in the 2015 Grey Cup, game MVP Mike Reilly said the Eskimos were built to win multiple championships.

That was before Chris Jones and the entire coaching staff left, leaving former quarterback Jason Maas in charge as a rookie head coach.

But after his first meeting this week with the Eskimos' new coaching staff, the star quarterback promptly declared he's even more confident that last season's Grey Cup title will not be the last.

"I feel just as (strongly), if not stronger, that we're built to win multiple Grey Cups," he said Wednesday. "We have the core group of players we need. Losing your entire staff is not a good situation but the staff we have replaced them with I'm extremely excited about."

Reilly, who missed the first half of last season after tearing up his left knee in the season-opener, said the best part of the new staff is that they weren't part of last season's Grey Cup team.

"Because they weren't part



Mike Reilly says he's "extremely excited" about the 2016 staff. TREVOR HAGAN/GETTY IMAGES

of that winning team, they bring probably more fire. I guarantee our staff is not going to let us get complacent. They didn't get to taste that Grey

Cup championship last year and they want that so they're going to push us hard."

After spending time with his family back in Seattle, Reilly is

spending four days in Edmonton to meet with the new staff to "talk through what we're going to do offensively and get to know the personalities

**"I'm a grown man who can take criticism."**

Mike Reilly

and make sure when we get to training camp we hit the ground running, and we're not wasting time trying to knock the rust off or getting familiar with each other."

He's excited to work with Maas, a former quarterback with three Grey Cup rings — two as a player with Edmonton and one as a coach with Toronto — who brings as much passion and fire to the game as Reilly. That he and Maas have similar personalities isn't going to be an issue, he said.

"I'm a grown man who can take criticism," Reilly said. "I prefer a coach to tell me what I'm doing wrong and to try to correct it so I can be a better player. He's not going to be shy to tell me what I'm screwing up, but that's during practice. Once game day hits that type of stuff is not helpful and we all understand that."

"From what I've seen with him on the sidelines during his career he's a great quarterback coach to have, he's a great offensive co-ordinator and I know he's going to be a great head coach."

NHL

## Wideman banned 20 games

The NHL came down hard on Calgary Flames defenceman Dennis Wideman for knocking down an official with a 20-game suspension Wednesday.

Wideman, who will also forfeit \$564,516 US to the players' emergency assistance fund, is eligible to return to the lineup March 14.

During the second period of the Flames' 2-1 loss to Nashville on Jan. 27, Wideman was checked

hard into the boards by Predators winger Mikko Salomak.

Wideman banged his stick on the ice en route to the players' benches and then shoved his stick into Don Henderson's back in front of the Predators' bench. Henderson went down, but got to his feet and was able to finish the game.

Wideman's explanation was he was in pain and was just trying to get off the ice, adding that he couldn't avoid Henderson.

"I think I've treated every official with the utmost respect and I would never intentionally try to hit a linesman or a ref or anything like that," Wideman said following the game.

No penalty was called. Wideman apologized to Henderson after the incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Dennis Wideman  
GETTY IMAGES

SUPER BOWL

## Manning mum on retirement possibility

John Elway in a Broncos uniform, he was facing the stands, both hands aloft, holding his helmet in his left hand, and his right hand clenched into a tight, celebratory fist. He flashed that toothy smile, knowing that a few minutes later, he would be cradling his second Super Bowl trophy.

He went out on top. No matter what happened after that — and Elway has gone on to accomplish plenty — his last meaningful moments on a football field had resulted in a victory in the biggest game of all.

"It's a very nice thing to have," Elway said this week, "knowing you can always look back and have a real positive thought."

Now, Elway runs the team he used to play for. In 2012, he signed Peyton Manning, who, at 39, is even older than Elway was when he played his last game in 1999.

And now, it's Manning who could be taking that same walk into the sunset as Elway did.

It's hard to think those conversations won't pick up steam over the next few weeks.



Peyton Manning and John Elway  
GETTY IMAGES

Manning has already told Patriots coach Bill Belichick, in a not-so-private exchange at midfield two weeks ago, that this might be his last rodeo. He has refused to expand on that.

The ravages of age on Elway weren't as glaring as what Manning has displayed at times this season. Manning's 17 interceptions before going to the sideline with a foot injury in November were hard to watch. That he has rebounded and guided the Broncos to the Super Bowl is a testament to his guile and smarts.

If he's holding the Lombardi Trophy on Sunday night, he'll have a chance to join his boss in some very rare company: two Broncos who rode off into the sunset. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



### IN BRIEF

#### Paralyzed hockey player awarded \$8 million

A Montreal-area hockey player who was 16 when he became quadriplegic after a bodycheck from behind propelled him into the boards has been awarded \$8 million.

One of Andrew Zaccardo's lawyers says the amount handed down by a judge might be a record in such a case in any sport.

Zaccardo has been unable to walk and has had to use a wheelchair since being hit by Ludovic Gauvreau-Beaupre in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Sabres overcome ailing Habs with strong 3rd period

Jamie McGinn and Johan Larsson scored in the third period as the Buffalo Sabres posted a 4-2 comeback victory over the slumping Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday.

Marcus Foligno and Brian Gionta, into an empty net, also scored for Buffalo (21-26-4), which played its first game since the all-star break.

The Sabres, last in the Atlantic Division, are 6-4-0 in their last 10 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



# RECIPE Pasta with Peas and Green Onion



PHOTO: MAMA VISIONE

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice of half a large lemon
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint, plus more for garnish

## Directions

**1.** Bring a large pot of salted water to boil over medium heat. Once boiling, add the pasta and cook 7 to 11 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta and pour into a large bowl.

**2.** Mix pasta with peas, onions and feta. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, lemon juice and mint. Drizzle dressing over pasta and toss throughout. Sprinkle pasta with another teaspoon of fresh, chopped mint and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT  
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Run, don't walk to the grocery store. This dish uses only 5 ingredients (we're not counting the oil, OK?) but yields big flavour and even more leftovers. We call that a dinner trifecta.

## Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Total time: 30 minutes  
**Serves 4 to 6**

## Ingredients

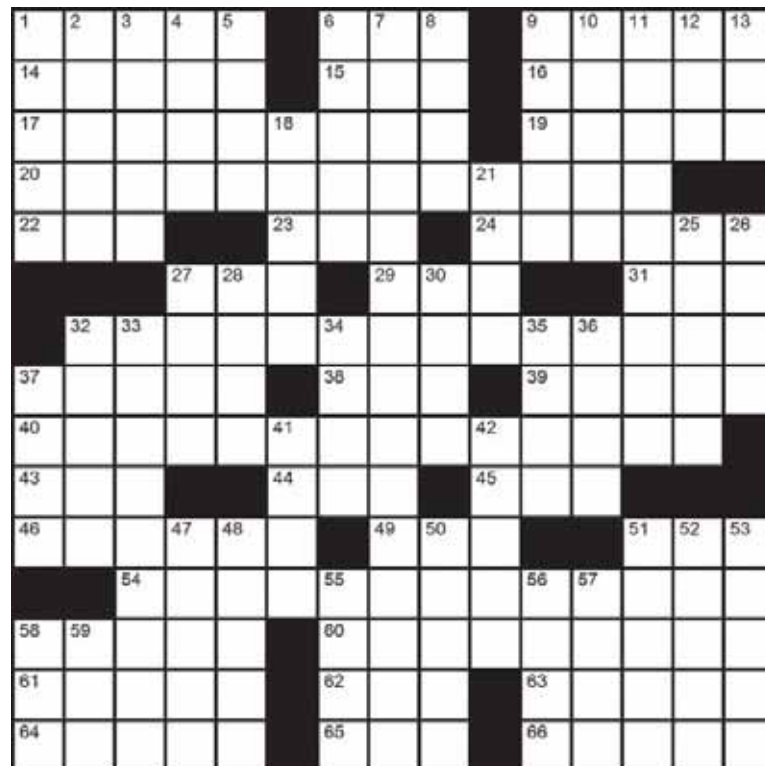
- 500g rigatoni pasta
- 2 cups fresh or frozen peas, cooked and drained
- 1 1/2 cups crumbled feta cheese
- 1 bunch green onions (about 4), sliced

# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

## ACROSS

- Large amounts
- ...la-la
- Mr. Baron Cohen
- Song line
- CD-\_\_
- Like some verbs, for short
- As per #32-Across... Bonhomme's grand home in his fantastically frigid kingdom: 2 wds.
- Canadian guitarist Ms. Boyd
- Fast food utensils: 2 wds.
- French seasoning
- Company name abbr.
- Medieval fief holder
- Non-verbal communication syst.
- Be in debt
- "...! \_ cut myself!" (Veggie chopper's cry)
- Annual event since 1955 currently underway in Quebec City: 2 wds.
- Breadcrumbs of Japan
- "O" of OLP
- Had that burger: 2 wds.
- Hit for Joe Cocker that goes "Baby let me be / 'Cause you don't care...": 3 wds.
- "Not impressed."
- "Yuck!"
- Hardy animal
- A \_ (Theoretical thinking)
- Big Apple news-



paper [acronym]  
51. Help  
54. According to the bio of Bonhomme (the mascot of #32-Across), it's his dream to eliminate this in the world: 2 wds.  
58. Celebrity chef Ms. De Laurentiis

60. Emotionally cleansing  
61. "When does \_ lighter out again?" (Hoping-for-Spring query)  
62. Dernier \_ (Latest fashion)  
63. Metamorphosis-izer

64. Shrek's beloved  
65. Mr. Cobb, and others  
66. Hamilton = \_ City

## DOWN

- Undergarments worn with dresses
- Recurring pro-

cess  
3. Expanse-related  
4. Plunges  
5. "Vamoosel!"  
6. Stretch of land  
7. "The Last Waltz" (1978) directed by Martin Scorsese and starring The Band: 2 wds.  
8. "Indeed!"  
9. Region's forest trees  
10. Ram's sign  
11. \_ artists (Singers such as Taylor Swift)  
12. Farm bird  
13. Palindromic honorific  
18. City in northern France  
21. Folkie band, Bon \_  
25. Anticipate  
26. Lively tune  
27. Ancient Egyptian cross  
28. Ancient col-onnade  
30. Cautious  
32. Decliner  
33. Visiting the Windy City: 2 wds.  
34. Rice-A-\_  
35. Scot's negatives  
36. "Take \_ a sign."  
37. Shoe style  
41. "Correct me \_ wrong, but..."  
42. Submarine entrance  
47. \_ days  
48. Lasso  
50. Abominable snowmen  
51. Cavern  
52. "Okay, \_ up already, what's the answer?"  
53. Sticker  
55. Bank \_  
56. Mr. Holbrook's  
57. Smell \_ (Be suspicious)  
58. Picture file extension  
59. "Lord, is \_?" (Last Supper question)

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
They say opposites attract and someone who's as different from you as possible will get your pulse racing. You'll recover your senses quickly, but it could be the love of your life.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Stick to tried and trusted ways, even if some may say it's old-fashioned. Not everything old is wrong and at least you get things done, which is more than can be said for some!

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
Don't worry if you find yourself in a minority of one. Being the kind of person who stands out from the crowd, it is inevitable that you will be criticized by those who would prefer everyone to think and act alike.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Someone needs your support and a shoulder to cry on. Do what you can to assist them. It may be emotionally draining but you have been through this kind of scene many times before.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
You are in a restless mood, unable to get comfortable in any one place. Why should that be a problem? Why should you stay still? Be adventurous. Boredom is to be avoided.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Why can't some people see sense? You will have to deal with someone whose grasp of logic is non-existent. Make your point, then get away from them as quickly as you can. You're under no obligation to stay.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
It may be hard to think straight today but it's essential if you don't want to get caught up in a big scene. You can't stop others from ranting and raving but you don't have to join in.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
You may be tempted to hit back at someone who's giving you a hard time but is it a good idea? They may just be waiting for an excuse to start an open fight.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Someone you thought was a friend will show their true colours and try to convert you to their way of thinking. Let them know that in future they must only give their opinions when asked — in other words, never!

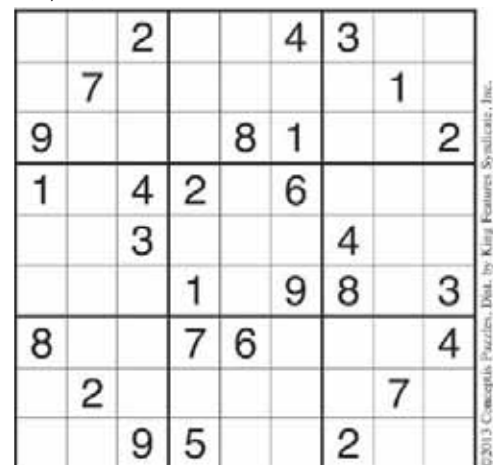
**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Someone in a position of authority will get a bit emotional today. Do what you can to calm them down. Not only will they appreciate your advice but they will mark you down as someone who can be trusted.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
You will have fun today but you may feel guilty because not everyone is as happy or fortunate as you. Help others get over whatever it is that is bothering them but don't let their mood bring you down.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Negative feelings may be natural but don't let them take over your life. Confront whatever it is that pains you today.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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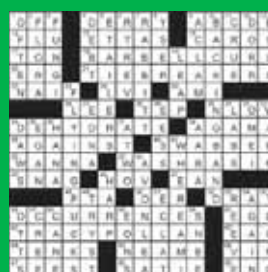
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